

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 L-03 NEA-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-04 /073 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

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R 040016Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, PFOR, PGOV, GV

SUBJECT: TROUBLES IN CBG BAUXITE COMPANY

REF: CONAKRY 1428 AND 1452

1. C.D. WARD OF HALCO WASHINGTON OFFICE CALLED ON AF/W AUGUST 2 TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT CBG PROBLEMS MENTIONED REFTEL. HE NOTED THAT HALCO SHAREHOLDERS HAD RECENTLY MET IN QUEBEC WITH ARNAUD PRESENT TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM. ARNAUD ASSERTED THAT THE CONFLICT BETWEEN HIM AND SHIPLEY WAS PART OF AN OVERALL GUINEAN MOVE TO TRANSFER CONTROL OF CBG "TO ARABS." HE SAID THAT SHIPLEY HAD MET WITH SEKOU TOURE THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF THREE ARAB AMBASADORS. WARD ALSO NOTICED THAT THE GOG HAD REPLACED THE CBG VICE PRESIDENT BY A MORE FORCEFUL AND EXPERIENCED MAN IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

2. WARD IS STILL INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT CBG'S TROUBLES
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ARE PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF A PERSONAL DISPUTE BETWEEN

ARNAUD AND SHIPLEY. WE INDICATED THAT, ALTHOUGH UPCOMING POLITICAL TRIALS IN GOG COMPLICATE GENERAL SITUATION AND ARAB ACTIVITY SPECULATION PERHAPS PLAUSIBLE GIVEN SHIPLEY'S BACKGROUND, THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE SOURCE OF TROUBLE IS PRIMARILY A PERSONAL DISPUTE.

3. WARD SAID THAT ARNAUD INTENDS TO RETURN TO CONAKRY ABOUT AUGUST 14 AND THAT HE WILL AGAIN SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH SEKOU TOURE. IF HE FAILS, HALCO SHAREHOLDERS PLAN TO HAVE HALCO CHAIRMAN SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH TOURE AND HALCO WILL REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE. WARD ADDED THAT HALCO IS CONCERNED THAT ARNAUD MIGHT BE RISKING HIS PERSONAL SAFETY IF HE RETURNS TO CONAKRY.

4. KIRKPATRICK WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH YOU DURING HIS TRIP TO CONAKRY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY RELATIONS, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE192470
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BSKIRKPATRICK:IW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760299-1214
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760887/aaaacyop.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CONAKRY 1428
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROUBLES IN CBG BAUXITE COMPANY
TAGS: EMIN, PFOR, PGOV, GV, CBG BAUXITE COMP
To: CONAKRY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006